

::: Gossip of London Town :::

By the Countess of Blanche

[Special Cable to the Central News and The Times-Dispatch.]

LONDON, December 28.—Although the position as held by the Countess of Blanche remains unchallenged, the baby prince of the Asturias is likely, before very long, to encounter serious rivalry in the royal nursery, as the gorgeous cradle which forms the resting place of royal Spanish babies is expected to have a new occupant in the coming spring.

The husband of Mrs. Beatty, nee Miss Marshall Field, the latest victim of the gang of daring burglars who have been operating with extraordinary success in the Midlands, is Captain David Beatty, naval adviser to the Army Council. He is a brother of Major Beatty, of Newmarket, who trains the race horses for Lord Howard de Walden, whose name is being mentioned so much in connection with the Bruce claim.

The announcement is made that the well-known society woman, Mrs. Blanche, is suffering from an accident which occurred while she was sitting at her dressing-table.

Miss Dodge, the new owner of Warwick House, a wealthy American lady of a retiring disposition, and the fact that she has purchased such a pretentious house, some as a surprise to some of her friends. She is fond of motoring, and also has devoted a good deal of her time to physical exercises.

All sorts of sensational stories are flying about regarding the abrupt finish to the recent breach of promise case brought by Mrs. Atherton against Lord Churston's heir, Sir Aubrey Dean Paul, the brother of the late Lord Paul, who was for a short time on the stage, and took part in the revival of "Penelope," under the management of Miss Kate Batley, some years ago. He possesses a light, pretty voice and studied for some time as a soloist. Lady Dean Paul is also an accomplished musician. She is the daughter of M. Henri Wieniawski, of Warsaw. Sir Aubrey Dean Paul and Mrs. Atherton, lived for many years at Cambridge House, Twickenham, and the house that used to stand facing the river just over Richmond Bridge.

The Duchess of Marlborough, although only just back from America, is again busy engaged in charity work. The other day she inaugurated the bazaar at the Easton Town Hall, which was organized to help the South Essex Road of Hope Union. The Duchess of Marlborough is well known down at Eastham, where she has performed many charitable works. Few people know that the Duchess of Marlborough does not have a hospital for children in the Port of Portland Street, which she has the greatest interest in, going through the books regularly and helping it in many ways.

There is great rejoicing at the birth of a son and heir to Lord and Lady Willoughby de Eresby, the future Earl and Countess of Lancaster.

Lady Willoughby de Eresby was Miss Eresby, of New York. The marriage took place two years ago, and a daughter was born to them last year. Lady Willoughby de Eresby's sister, Mrs. Ker, brother of the Duke of Roxburgh.

The marriage arranged between Sir Foster Cunliffe and Lady Violet Anson, did not take place. It was rather a good story about the break of this engagement.

When first the engagement was announced, Lady Violet was naturally besieged with letters of congratulation from all her many friends and acquaintances. But there was one peculiar tone about them which set Lady Violet thinking. In every letter of congratulation there was a strong protest against the marriage, a sort of "stop-before-it-is-too-late" cry, or "don't tell your friends that you are married." Lady Violet naturally got a bit suspicious, and after due consideration decided that the marriage could not take place.

Her Majesty, the Queen, has recently taken to the art of fencing, and is practicing this with great enthusiasm. Her instructor is an ex-convict, a former officer of the House of Commons, who attends upon Her Majesty at least three days a week, while the Queen puts in several hours practicing. It is stated that she shows great natural aptitude for this art and would, had she taken it up earlier in life, have been a really first-class swordswoman. The best fencer in the royal family is without doubt Prince Arthur of Connaught, who has had several bouts with the Queen lately, but others of the family show considerable proficiency in this art. Among them is the Duke of Connaught, who in his younger days was devoted to it. The King never cared for this form of exercise.

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LONDON, December 28.—An extraordinary case of intentional live burial

was reported from the East of England. The victim was a woman named Mrs. Beatty, who was found dead in a room containing several chrysanthemums, and after dinner both of them died. As they did not wake, a servant entered the room and found that Mme. Delporte was dead, and her husband unconscious. The servant managed to restore the man to consciousness after opening all the windows. It is supposed that the emanations from the chrysanthemums in the warm room were responsible for the tragedy. A well-known chemist of London, who was consulted with reference to the above facts, said that he was not altogether surprised, although he had never heard of any previous

case of a person being killed by the scent of flowers. "As a matter of fact," he said, "many flowers are poisonous. I do not mean that they would actually prove fatal, but they produce a feeling of oppressiveness and even cause fainting."

The head gardener at the Botanical Gardens declined to believe that the scent of chrysanthemums had caused death. "There is very little perfume in chrysanthemum flowers," he remarked. "Some people, of course, are affected by the pungent smell of flowers, but I have never heard of any one dying in the way you have described. Now, if you want to die in an ideal way, sleep under that tree there. It is a flowering tree which grows in China and Japan, and is called Nerium Oleander. In the Far East it is said that a person who lies under that tree and inhales its perfume goes to sleep and never wakes again."

A Gospel Fragment.

[Special Cable to the Central News and The Times-Dispatch.]

LONDON, December 28.—A publication of much interest to biblical students is about to be issued by Mr. Henry Frowde. It consists of a fragment of an uncanonical gospel, forming part of the literary treasures which were unearthed by Dr. Grenfell and Hunt from the mounds at Oxyrhynchus, about 120 miles south of Cairo. The fragment is an account of the remarkable conversation between Jesus and a Pharisee in the Temple of Jerusalem, and is of great interest to students of the Bible. It is a fragment of a larger work, and is the only one of its kind that has been discovered since 1855, started in 1897 a special department for the discovery and publication of remains of classical antiquity and early Christianity in Egypt.